

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Sheet for Figure 5 reflects the removal of the connecting dot between the drain terminal of M10 and PBIAS line as recommended by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this paper, claims 1-23 were pending. Claims 1-6 and 20-22 were rejected. Claims 10, 12, 15-19, and 23 were allowed. Claims 7-9, 11, 13, and 14 were identified as being allowable if re-written in independent form. In this paper, several Claims are amended. Claims 1-23 are currently pending. No new matter is added by way of this amendment. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the presently pending claims is in condition for allowance.

Drawings

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection to the drawings is rendered moot based on the amendment to the drawings in this paper.

Allowable Subject Matter (Claims 1, 5-19, and 23)

Claims 10, 12, 15-19, and 23 are allowed.

Claims 7-9, 11, 13, and 14 were identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this paper, Claims 7 and 13 have been re-written in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 11 as Claim 11 stood prior to entry of this paper. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 7, and 13 are in condition for allowance. Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1. Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 7. Claim 14 depends from Claim 7. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 5-9, and 13-14 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 depends from Claim 2, which is respectfully submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons stated below. For at least these reasons, Claim 11 is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Objection to Claim 3

Claim 3 was objected to because of informalities. In this paper, Claim 3 was amended to correct the informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claim 3 is moot in light to the amendment to Claim 3.

Rejection to Claims 2-4 and 20-22

Claims 1-6 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cowles (U.S. Patent No. 6,700,416).

The rejection to Claim 2 is respectfully traversed. Claim 2 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because Cowles does not disclose, "in accordance with a ratio that is greater than one-to-one", as recited in Applicant's Claim 2. A ratio greater than one-to-one is not disclosed in Cowles.

Claim 3 is respectfully submitted be allowable at least because Cowles does not disclose, "the second current mirror circuit includes a plurality of n-type transistors" (in conjunction with the other limitations of Claim 3), as recited in Applicant's Claim 3. Claim 4 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because it depends on Claim 3.

Claim 20 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because Cowles does not disclose, "means for actively driving the voltage if an input node does not receive a driving input signal", as recited in Applicant's Claim 20.

Claim 21 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because Cowles does not disclose, "a first current mirror circuit, including a first n-type transistor" (in conjunction with the other limitations of Claim 21), as recited in Applicant's Claim 21.

Claim 22 is respectfully submitted to be allowable at least because Cowles does not disclose, "wherein the first switch circuit is not part of a differential pair", as recited in Applicant's Claim 22.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (Claims 1-23) are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Although only certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentable. Applicant reserves the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Dated: February 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


Matthew M. Gaffney

Registration No.: 46,717

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(206) 262-8900

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant